

REMARKS:

I. Introduction

In the Office Action mailed on July 13, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1 to 8, 10 to 16, and 18 to 20. The present amendment cancels claims 3 to 5, 12, and 13, amends claims 1, 2, 6 to 11, 14 to 19, and adds new claims 21 to 25. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 6 to 11, and 14 to 25 are now pending in this application.

II Claim Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

(a) The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 8, 10 to 16, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McMurtrey et al. (US 6,076,424).

Independent claims 1, 10, and 18, and claims dependent therefrom, are allowable because they each include the limitations of "wherein the jack driver includes a coupling shaft having a groove encircling a longitudinal axis of the coupling shaft", "wherein the groove extends radially inwardly about a periphery of the coupling shaft to form opposite and axially-facing first and second abutments", and "wherein the coupling includes a clip operatively secured to the handle arm and having at least one protrusion extending into the groove to interlock the jack driver and the handle arm and limit axial movement therebetween by engagement between the protrusion and the first and second abutments" or the like. No prior art of record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by independent claims 1, 10, and 18. It is noted that the Examiner indicated that McMurtrey et al. discloses "said coupling shaft and handle arm can have grooves 186 for engaging a clip 170 with a pair of protrusions 178." McMurtrey et al. discloses having "wings or ears 186 to help prevent the clip 170 from sliding off of the jack handle extension. Column 8, lines 36 to 38. Therefore, item 186 is not a groove in any sense. Item 186 itself is a protrusion. Furthermore, the wing or ear 186 clearly does not disclose or suggest a groove as now defined by claims 1, 10, and 18. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

(b) The Examiner rejected claims 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gill (US 5,237,890).

Independent claim 18, and claims dependent therefrom, are allowable because they

each include the limitations of "a jack driver having a coupling shaft having a groove encircling a longitudinal axis of the coupling shaft" and "wherein the groove extends radially inwardly about a periphery of the coupling shaft to form opposite and axially-facing first and second abutments."

No prior art of record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by independent claim 18. The device of Gill does not have a groove of any kind. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

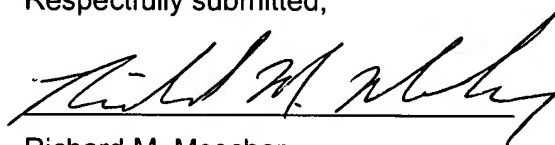
Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner indicated claims 9 and 17 to be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 9 and 17 have been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and each intervening claim. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is found that that the present amendment does not place the application in a condition for allowance, applicant's undersigned attorney requests that the examiner initiate a telephone interview to expedite prosecution of the application.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-2326.

Respectfully submitted,



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